

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
27 June 2002 (27.06.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/50373 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **D21H 19/58**,
C09D 17/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/KR01/02199

(22) International Filing Date:
18 December 2001 (18.12.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2000/77917 18 December 2000 (18.12.2000) KR

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(81) Designated States (national): CN, JP, US.

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ARTIFICIAL PIGMENT AND METHOD FOR PREPARING THE SAME

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an artificial pigment and a method of preparing the same, specifically to an artificial pigment with excellent dry pick resistance and a method of preparing the same. In order to accomplish the object, the present invention provides an artificial pigment of core-shell structure comprising; a) shell of butadiene polymer including: i) seed of butadiene polymer having glass transition temperature of -10 to 50 °C; and ii) seed covering of butadiene polymer having glass transition temperature of -10 to 20 °C; and b) core of styrene polymer having glass transition temperature of 40 to 120 °C, and a method of preparing artificial pigment comprising: a) preparing shell of butadiene polymer; and b) preparing core of styrene polymer inner side of said shell of a) step. The coating color comprising the artificial pigment of the present invention can make coated paper having excellent dry pick resistance and high paper gloss and printing gloss as well as stiffness.



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ARTIFICIAL PIGMENT AND METHOD FOR PREPARING THE SAME**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****(a) Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to an artificial pigment, specifically to an
5 artificial pigment with excellent dry pick resistance and a method of preparing
the same.

(b) Description of the Related Art

Conventional coated paper is manufactured by coating an inorganic
pigment such as clay, calcium carbonate, aluminum hydroxide ($\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$),
10 titanium oxide (TiO_2) on paper. In preparing coated paper, a natural binder
such as casein or starch and an artificial binder such as styrene-butadiene
latex, polyvinyl alcohol or acrylic latex are used as an adhesive. Also, many
kinds of additives such as a dispersion agent, a thickener, or a
water-resistance agent are used. However, the most important components
15 in manufacturing coated paper are an inorganic pigment and a binder. In
order to obtain balanced properties of coated paper, an appropriate inorganic
pigment and a binder should be used.

The most commonly used inorganic pigments are clay and calcium
carbonate. Clay having plate shape has merits of high paper gloss and
20 printing gloss. Calcium carbonate has merits of fluidity, dry pick resistance,
Ink set-off, brightness of paper, and opacity.

Besides the inorganic pigment, an artificial pigment can be used in
order to obtain coated paper with high quality. Conventionally, latex of
styrene polymer or acryl-styrene copolymer is used as an artificial pigment.
25 The artificial pigment has very high glass transition temperature so that it can
increase paper gloss of coated paper, opacity and micro smoothness.
However, since the artificial pigment has little dry pick resistance and high
binder demand, if an enough amount of binder is not used, material
properties such as dry pick resistance of coated paper and printing gloss can
30 be deteriorated.

Recently, in order to improve productivity and save drying energy, as high concentration of solid content of coating color proceeded, viscosity of a composition for paper coating increased. Because of this, fluidity of coated paper decreased and thus it brought reduction of work-operation.

5 In addition, according to increase of manufacturing speed of paper, there have been a lot of researches to improve productivity and to meet providing increasing printed materials by increasing coating speed. When coating speed is increased, shear strength during coating also increases and thus high-shear fluidity becomes more important. The high-shear means
10 shear speed of more than one of thousands second and the low-shear means shear speed of less than one of hundreds second. The low-shear viscosity affects transfer of coating color and coating.

As mentioned above, there is a problem that low-shear/high-shear fluidity of coating color is a previous requirement for high concentration of
15 coating color and increase of coating speed. In order to solve the above problem, there are two solutions: one is replacing a natural soluble binder having large thickening effect such as starch or casein with an artificial binder and the other is increasing the ratio of ground calcium carbonate with fine particles that has lower viscosity in terms of a pigment. However, although
20 calcium carbonate has many merits, it is unfavorable in terms of paper gloss, printing gloss and smoothness so that it is difficult to increase weight. Also there is a solution to solve fluidity by controlling particle size of a binder. As particle size of a binder decreases, high-shear viscosity is lowered. This principle is applicable to the artificial pigment. That is, fluidity can be
25 controlled by changing particle size of an artificial pigment used so that it is easier to cope with high concentration and change of coating speed than that of using an inorganic pigment only.

In addition, the artificial pigment has better water-retention property than an inorganic pigment. The water-retention property is a property of
30 coating color to maintain moisture against exterior strength. When the water-retention property is low, solid content of coating color continuously increases during coating so that work-operation has problems and irregular

binder distribution in the coating layer such as binder migration can occur. However, since an artificial pigment is conventionally more surface-hydrophilic than an inorganic pigment so that moisture-holding property is excellent and thus, work-operation and quality of coated paper
5 can be improved.

Recently, due to increase of printed materials, tendency of high-speed printing, particularly in offset printing is gradually increasing. Also, as a requirement of coating color, importance of dry pick resistance and reduction of binder content is continuously increasing. That is, the coated paper
10 should resist strong mechanical strength against surface of coated paper of pigments in order not to occur picking from coating layer and falling off pigment during printing. That is, coated paper should have clear printing appearance. Since the destruction of paper surface is severer as printing speed is higher and content of binder is lower, a pigment adhesive having
15 excellent dry pick resistance is required in order to prevent the above problem.

In addition, importance of ink set-off is increasing. Ink set-off is a property represents ink-drying speed after printing. In the case of multi-color printing, printing is usually done by four colors of blue, black, red,
20 and yellow. As ink set-off increases, time term to print the next color can be short, thus it improves the productivity in printing. If ink is not well dried and goes to the next step, print mottle or post-smear phenomenon can occur.

Gloss is an important factor to increase commercial value and quality of printing paper. Gloss is divided into paper gloss of coated paper and
25 printing gloss after printing. As the value of both of them increases, paper has good appearance. Conventionally, as a particle size of a binder used in coating color is larger, it makes an arrangement of the inorganic pigments easier, so that paper gloss increases. Also, as glass transition temperature of a binder is higher, paper gloss increases. Other method to increase
30 paper gloss is to lower content of a binder in the coating color. However, when the paper gloss is increased by only the above methods, dry pick resistance is decreased.

Another method to increase paper gloss is to use an artificial pigment. Although the conventional artificial pigment has high glass transition temperature and can increase paper gloss, they have demerits of low dry pick resistance and printing gloss. In order to complement these demerits, there is an artificial pigment having dry pick resistance. But, it has lower paper gloss than an artificial pigment having high glass transition temperature, or it has high paper gloss but insufficient dry pick resistance.

Meanwhile, in order to increase printing gloss, porosity should be lowered and thus, it is required to hold solvent on the surface until having stable arrangement after printing. Thus, it needs to have small particle size of a binder, low glass transition temperature and high binder content of coating color. In this case, ink set-off should be lowered. Also, when an artificial pigment having high glass transition temperature is used, since porosity increases, printing gloss reduces.

In addition, wet-pick resistance is also important printing property in offset printing. In the offset printing, damping water is used. If wet-pick resistance decreases, pigments can be exfoliated by applied strong physical strength during printing.

Another printing property required in the offset printing is wet ink receptivity. As described in the above, since damping water is used in the offset printing, if coated paper does not effectively absorb water during printing, ink that does not have compatibility with water will not adhere to coated paper well, which results in low degree of printing. Generally, wet ink receptivity and wet-pick resistance are opposite properties so that it is difficult to increase both of them simultaneously.

With an increasing tendency of using high quality magazines and mail-order catalogues, there is an increasing demand for low-weight coated paper. The low-weight coated paper has lower coating amount and is thinner and lighter than middle or high-weight paper so that it needs to have excellent stiffness and high paper gloss and printing gloss in order to have high quality. Thus, coating color used in the low-weight paper may have different composition from that of general coated paper and a binder used in

this also has higher glass transition temperature than a usual binder. Particularly, when the amount of an artificial pigment increases, higher stiffness can be obtained. However, since dry pick resistance reduces significantly, an artificial pigment having dry pick resistance can be used in order to complete the demerit. However, since the artificial pigment having dry pick resistance has low glass transition temperature, stiffness and paper gloss reduce little or more.

As above, it is very difficult to prepare coating color that can provide coated paper with excellent printing properties. Also, coating and printing circumstances is getting stricter.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Considering the above problems of the prior art, the present invention provides an artificial pigment having excellent fluidity, paper gloss, stiffness, dry pick resistance, ink set-off and printing gloss.

In order to achieve the above object, the present invention provides an artificial pigment of inverted core-shell structure comprising;

a) shell of butadiene polymer including:

i) seed of butadiene polymer having glass transition temperature of -10 to 50°C ; and

ii) seed covering of butadiene polymer having glass transition temperature of -10 to 20°C ; and

b) core of styrene polymer having glass transition temperature of 40 to 120°C .

Also, the present invention provides a method of preparing artificial pigment comprising:

a) preparing shell of butadiene polymer; and

b) preparing core of styrene polymer inner side of said shell of a) step.

More specifically, the present invention provides a method of preparing artificial pigment comprising:

a) a step of preparing shell comprising

i) preparing seed latex by emulsion polymerizing seed composition comprising styrene, 1,3-butadiene, ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer, vinyl cyanide monomer, monomer copolymerizable with these,
5 and a chain transfer agent; and

ii) covering outside of said seed latex with polymer of seed covering composition by adding seed covering composition comprising styrene, 1,3-butadiene, ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer and a chain transfer agent to said seed latex and emulsion polymerizing them; and

10 b) a step of preparing core inside of said shell by adding core composition comprising styrene and ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer to said shell and emulsion polymerizing them.

Also, the present invention provides a coated paper composition comprising the artificial pigment.

15 In addition, the present invention provides a paper coated with the paper coating composition.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, the present invention will be explained in detail.

As a result of extensive research in the need of new coating color, the
20 present inventors found that the above object can be accomplished by distributing butadiene having dry pick resistance to the surface of an artificial pigment with a new method different from the prior art. That is, after preparing latex by using butadiene having low glass transition temperature, styrene having high glass transition temperature is controlled to react inside,
25 not latex surface, so that both paper gloss and dry pick resistance of coated paper can be satisfied. Thus, the present invention was accomplished based on this.

The artificial pigment of the present invention has an inverted core-shell structure that has different morphology from the prior art and is a
30 polymer prepared from reacting latex made from butadiene with styrene

having high glass transition temperature. The artificial pigment of the present invention shows high paper gloss and printing gloss while having more excellent dry pick resistance than other known artificial pigment, and improves dry pick resistance while maintaining stiffness.

5 In addition, the artificial pigment of the present invention can prepare aqueous coating color by mixing with an inorganic pigment, a binder, a thickener, and the other additives and thus high quality coated paper can be made by coating the coating color on paper. The inorganic pigment is a pigment such as titanium oxide, calcium carbonate, or clay and a pigment
10 extender and so on. An amount of the artificial pigment is preferably 3 to 20 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of inorganic pigments.

The artificial pigment of the present invention comprises shell polymerization step and core polymerization step that forms core inside of shell, more specifically, a triple-structure comprising a seed-preparing step as
15 first polymerization, a shell-preparing step that forms covering on seed as second polymerization and a core-polymerizing step that forms core inside of the shell as third polymerization and each step is formed by emulsion polymerization.

The seed prepared through the first step characterizes in having low
20 gel content and appropriate hydrophilicity, the second polymerization characterizes in having low glass transition temperature and gel content and high hydrophilicity as well as long polymerization time, and the third polymerization characterizes in having monomer composition that is higher glass transition temperature and lower hydrophilicity than the second
25 polymerization and short polymerization time. Also, the third polymerization characterizes in penetrating into latex inside prepared from the second polymerization to perform reaction. Thus, the artificial pigment of the present invention is prepared by effectively controlling gel content, hydrophilicity, and polymerization time in each step so that the artificial
30 pigment has a new structure, that is, the second polymer forms outer shell of the artificial pigment and the third polymer forms inner shell.

The preparation processes of the artificial pigment of the present

invention will be explained in detail.

The first step is an initial polymerization process of seed. The seed comprises 35 to 90 parts by weight of styrene, 10 to 55 parts by weight of 1,3-butadiene, 1 to 18 parts by weight of ethylenic unsaturated acid and 0.5 to 15 parts by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer.

Styrene gives the copolymer appropriate hardness and wet pick resistance. When styrene is less than 35 parts by weight, a sufficient hardness and wet pick resistance cannot be obtained. The other hand, when styrene is more than 90 parts by weight, dry pick resistance and film strength is lowered.

1,3-butadiene gives the copolymer flexibility. When 1,3-butadiene is less than 10 parts by weight, the polymer becomes too stiff and when it is more than 55 parts by weight, stiffness is lowered.

The ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer is appropriately used for improving dry pick resistance of polymer and stability of latex particles. The composition ratio of ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer is preferably 1.5 to 18 parts by weight. When the amount is less than 1 part by weight, the above effect cannot be obtained and when the amount is more than 18 parts by weight, a problem such as polymerization stability can occur. The ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer is preferably unsaturated carboxylic acid or unsaturated polycarboxylic acid alkyl ester having at least one carboxylic acid.

The unsaturated carboxylic acid is preferably at least one selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, and maleinic acid and the unsaturated polycarboxylic acid alkyl ester is preferably at least one selected from the group consisting of monoethyl itaconate, monobutyl fumarate and monobutyl malate.

The vinyl cyanide monomer improves printing gloss and the amount of it is preferably 3 to 10 parts by weight. Also, since the vinyl cyanide monomer has high hydrophilicity with ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer, it is preferable to control hydrophilicity within preferable amount in each

polymerization step. The vinyl cyanide monomer is preferably acrylonitrile or methacrylonitrile.

The seed preparation step of the present invention comprises styrene, 1,3-butadiene, ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer and 1 to 25 parts by weight of a monomer copolymerizable with vinyl cyanide monomer and 0.1 to 1.0 parts by weight of a chain transfer agent.

The copolymerizable monomer is preferably at least one selected from the group consisting of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester such as methylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, butylacrylate, or butylmethacrylate; unsaturated carboxylic acid hydroxyalkyl ester such as β -hydroxyethyl acrylate, β -hydroxypropyl acrylate, or β -hydroxyethyl methacrylate; unsaturated carboxylic acid amide such as acrylamide, methacrylamide, itaconamide, or maleic acid monoamide or derivatives thereof; and aromatic vinyl monomer such as α -methylstyrene, vinyl toluene, or p-methyl styrene. The unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester gives the copolymer an appropriate hardness and improves film formability. When the amount is more than 25 parts by weight, it adversely affects wet pick resistance so that it is preferable to have 3 to 15 parts by weight. In addition, the unsaturated carboxylic acid amide and derivatives thereof have an improving effect for chemical stability, mechanical stability and wet pick resistance of copolymer latex and the amount is preferably 1 to 10 parts by weight.

The chain transfer agent of the present invention is preferably selected from the group consisting of mercaptan such as n-dodecyl mercaptan or t-dodecyl mercaptan.

The seed preparation of the present invention is performed by emulsion polymerization under the addition of additives such as a conventional polymerization initiator, an emulsifier, or an electrolyte to the above seed composition.

The seed of the artificial pigment of the present invention has preferably less than 80 % by weight of gel content, more preferably 20 to 60 % by weight. When gel content of seed is more than 80 % by weight, the

second and third polymerization steps followed by the seed preparation step cannot control structure so that sufficient dry pick resistance cannot be obtained.

The second step of the artificial pigment preparing steps of the present invention is a covering step of shell on the seed latex prepared from the first step. The composition comprises 20 to 85 parts by weight of styrene, 23 to 75 parts by weight of 1,3-butadiene, 0.5 to 18 parts by weight of ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer, and 0.1 to 3.0 parts by weight of a chain transfer agent. Also, it can further comprise 1.0 to 20 parts by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0.1 to 25 parts by weight of monomers copolymerizable with other monomers.

The shell prepared from the second step of the present invention preferably comprises 25 to 65 % by weight of gel content, more preferably 40 to 55 % by weight. When the gel content is less than 25 % by weight, gloss and polymerization stability can be lowered and when the gel content is more than 65 % by weight, the monomer of the third step cannot effectively penetrate into polymer inside of the second step so that dry pick resistance reduces.

The third step of the artificial pigment preparing steps is performed by adding new monomers and polymerizing them when conversion ratio of monomer to polymer in the second step is 55 to 85%. If the conversion ratio is less than 55 %, monomers in the second step and monomers in the third step are mixed and their structures are not apparently separated, so that paper gloss and stiffness can be lowered. If the conversion ratio is more than 85 %, effective reverse core-shell structure cannot be obtained so that dry pick resistance reduces.

The monomer composition of the third step comprises preferably 85 to 99.9 parts by weight of styrene, and 0.1 to 15 parts by weight of ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer. It can further comprise 0.1 to 25 parts by weight of 1,3-butadiene, 0.1 to 1.0 parts by weight of a chain transfer agent, 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0.1 to 8 parts by weight of copolymerizable monomer in addition to the styrene and ethylenic

unsaturated acid monomer.

Each monomer used in the second step and the third step is the same as the material used in the first step of seed preparation.

In addition, core after the third step has preferably 40 to 85 % by weight of gel content, more preferably 55 to 78 % by weight. When the gel content is less than 40 % by weight, molecular weight is reduced so that dry pick resistance reduces. When the gel content is more than 85 % by weight, effective control of structure is difficult and film-formability is reduced so that dry pick resistance can be lowered.

Also, it is very important for the artificial pigment of the present invention to control thickness and glass transition temperature in each step during process. The thickness in each step can be regulated by controlling seed content and monomer content. If it is not properly regulated, the artificial pigment with preferable structure cannot be obtained. In addition, if glass transition temperature in each process is properly regulated, printing properties such as dry pick resistance, printing gloss, and ink set-off and other properties such as paper gloss and stiffness can be effectively controlled.

A proper average particle size of the first step after seed polymerization during process is preferably 50 to 90 nm, more preferably 55 to 80 nm, a proper average particle size after the second step is preferably 130 to 260 nm, more preferably 150 to 240 nm, and an average particle size of the artificial pigment after the third step is preferably 170 to 300 nm, more preferably 190 to 260 nm.

In addition, proper glass transition temperature of seed of the first step is preferably -10 to 50°C , more preferably -5 to 30°C , glass transition temperature of the shell polymer prepared from the second step is preferably -10 to 20°C , more preferably -5 to 10°C , and glass transition temperature of core polymer prepared from the third step is 40 to 120°C , more preferably 60 to 120°C .

Even though it is difficult to show the final glass transition temperature

after completion of polymerization as a specific value, it is theoretically 20 to 60 °C, more preferably 30 to 50 °C. When the temperature is less than 20 °C, paper gloss and stiffness is lowered, and when the temperature is more than 60 °C, dry pick resistance reduces.

5 In addition, polymerization temperature and time in the second and third steps during preparation of the artificial pigment of the present invention have very important role to control the structure of the artificial pigment. The polymerization temperature and time should be preferably controlled together to maintain a balance of thermodynamic preference and dynamic speed.
10 Particularly, the polymerization temperature and time of the third step should be controlled to have 50 to 85 % of conversion ratio right after the third step in order to obtain inverted core-shell structure. Other reaction conditions, such as a polymerization initiator, an emulsifier, and an electrolyte are the same as the known art in an emulsion polymerization.

15 In the artificial pigment of the present invention, polymer of the third step is formed inside of latex, not surface of latex and polymer of the second step forms a shell. That is, polymer of the second step having good dry pick resistance exists on the surface of latex prepared from the first step and polymer of the third step having good stiffness exists inside of latex so that
20 the artificial pigment having excellent dry pick resistance and paper gloss can be obtained.

Hereinafter, preferable examples and comparative examples are presented for the sake of understanding. These examples, however, are provided to facilitate the understanding and the present invention is not
25 limited to the following examples.

[Example 1-12]

The artificial pigment of the present invention was prepared according to the following three steps.

First step: 10L-pressure reactor equipped with a stirrer, a thermometer,
30 a cooler, and an inlet of nitrogen gas and equipped so as to continuously provide monomers, emulsifiers and a polymerization initiator was purged with

nitrogen and then 33 parts by weight of butadiene, 49 parts by weight of styrene, 8 parts by weight of methylmethacrylate, 5 parts by weight of acrylonitrile, 5 parts by weight of itaconic acid, 6 parts by weight of dodecyl dibenzene sulfonic acid, 0.3 parts by weight of t-dodecyl mercaptan, 0.4 parts
 5 by weight of sodium bicarbonate and 420 parts by weight of ion exchange water were added thereto and heated to 60°C. Thereto, 1 part by weight of potassium persulfate as a polymerization initiator was added and stirred for about 300 minutes to complete polymerization of seed.

As a result of analyzing by a Laser Scattering Analyzer (Nicomp), the
 10 obtained seed has an average particle size of 68nm, 53% of gel content, and 97 % of conversion ratio.

Second step: In order to cover the shell into the above seed obtained from the first step, seed latex and 32 parts by weight of ion exchange water were added into the reactor and heated to 80°C. The components of table 1
 15 except seed latex were continuously added for 150 minutes to polymerize them. The below unit is parts by weight and total amount of monomers of the second and third steps are 100 as a standard.

Table 1

Components	Ex.1	Ex.2	Ex.3	Ex.4	Ex.5	Ex.6	Ex.7	Ex.8	Ex.9	Ex. 10	Ex. 11	Ex. 12
Seed latex	8	8	8	8	28	28	8	8	8	28	28	28
Butadiene	15	15	20	24	20	20	15	24	20	24	30	15
Styrene	27	22	22	20.5	22	17	17	13	10	16	11.5	12
Methylmethacrylate	0	5	0	6	0	10	10	10	0	0	10	10
Acrylonitrile	5	5	5	6	5	0	5	0	10	0	5	10
Itaconic acid	1.5	1	1	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5	5	1.4	1.5
Acrylic acid	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1	1	1	1	3	3	1.5	1
Acrylamide	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	2	0.6	0.5
t-dodecyl mercaptan	0.42	0.62	0.72	0.92	0.92	0.72	0.42	0.92	0.92	0.92	1.18	0.42

Besides the above table 1, 0.75 parts by weight of sodium dodecyl dibenzene sulfonic acid, 0.25 parts by weight of sodium bicarbonate, 32.5 parts by weight of ion exchange water, 1.5 parts by weight of potassium persulfate were continuously added in Examples 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. In case of Examples 4 and 11, 0.9 parts by weight of sodium dodecyl dibenzene sulfonic acid, 0.3 parts by weight of sodium bicarbonate, 39 parts by weight of ion exchange water, and 16 parts by weight of potassium persulfate were continuously added. After adding all the components, they were further stirred for 10 minutes. The conversion ratio was 65 to 80%.

Third step:

After maintaining temperature of the reactor filled with the latex obtained from the second step as 80°C, the components of table 2 were continuously added for 100 minutes to polymerize. The below unit is parts by weight and total amount of monomers of the second and third steps are 100 as a standard.

Table 2

Components	Ex.1	Ex.2	Ex.3	Ex.4	Ex.5	Ex.6	Ex.7	Ex.8	Ex.9	Ex. 10	Ex. 11	Ex. 12
butadiene	5	0	0	0	5	0	10	0	0	4	0	10
Styrene	39	48	48	38.5	43	43	30.5	48	48	37	38.5	38
Methylmethacrylate	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0
Acrylonitrile	2	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	5	0	0
acrylic acid	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.5	1.5	5	1.5	0	0	1.1	1.5
Acrylamide	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.4	0.5
t-dodecyl mercaptan	0.2	0	0.2	0	0	0.2	0.3	0	0	0.1	0	0.3

Besides the above table 2, 0.75 parts by weight of sodium dodecyl dibenzene sulfonic acid, 0.25 parts by weight of sodium bicarbonate, 32.5 parts by weight of ion exchange water, 0.5 parts by weight of potassium

persulfate were continuously added in Examples 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. In case of Examples 4 and 11, 0.6 parts by weight of sodium dodecyl dibenzene sulfonic acid, 0.2 parts by weight of sodium bicarbonate, 26 parts by weight of ion exchange water, and 0.4 parts by weight of potassium persulfate were continuously added.

After adding all the components, they were further stirred for 100 minutes while elevating temperature to 90°C to complete polymerization. The conversion ratio of the artificial pigment was 98 to 100% and the average particle sizes were measured as 240 nm in Examples 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 and as 170 nm in Examples 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12.

[Comparative examples]

First step:

The seed latex was prepared by the same method of Examples.

Second step:

A determined amount of seed latex and 32 parts by weight of ion exchange water were added into a reactor and heated to 80°C. The components of table 3 were continuously added for 100 minutes to polymerize. The below unit is parts by weight and it is conversed by the same standard as the Examples.

Table 3

Components	Com. Ex. 1	Com. Ex. 2	Com. Ex. 3
butadiene	0	20	20
Styrene	42	17	17
methylmethacrylate	0	5	5
Acrylonitrile	5	5	5
Itaconic acid	1.5	1.5	1.5
Acrylic acid	1	1	1
Acrylamide	0.5	0.5	0.5
t-dodecyl mercaptan	0	0.5	0.7

Besides the above table 3, 0.75 parts by weight of sodium dodecyl

dibenzene sulfonic acid, 0.25 parts by weight of sodium bicarbonate, 32.5 parts by weight of ion exchange water, 1.5 parts by weight of potassium persulfate were continuously added in Comparative Examples 1 to 3. After adding all the components, they were further stirred for 10 minutes. The
 5 conversion ratio was 85 to 95%.

Third step:

After maintaining temperature of the reactor filled with the latex obtained from the second step as 80°C, the components of table 4 were continuously added for 150 minutes to polymerize. The below unit is parts
 10 by weight and it is conversed by the same standard as the Examples.

Table 4

Components	Com. Ex. 1	Com. Ex. 2	Com. Ex. 3
Seed latex	8	8	28
Butadiene	0	0	0
styrene	48	48	48
methylmethacrylate	5	0	0
Acrylonitrile	0	0	0
Acrylic acid	1.5	1.5	1.5
Acrylamide	0.5	0.5	0.5

Besides the above table 4, 0.75 parts by weight of sodium dodecyl dibenzene sulfonic acid, 0.25 parts by weight of sodium bicarbonate, 32.5
 15 parts by weight of ion exchange water, 0.5 parts by weight of potassium persulfate were continuously added in Comparative Examples 1 to 3.

After adding all the components, the reaction was facilitated to elevate temperature to 90°C and the polymerization was completed by further stirring for 60 min in case of Comparative example 1 and for 150 min in case of
 20 Comparative Examples 2 and 3. The conversion ratio of the artificial pigment completed polymerization was 98 to 100% and average particle sizes were 240 nm in Comparative Examples 1 and 2 and 170 nm in

Comparative Example 3.

[Example 13]

In order to compare and evaluate the pigments of examples and comparative examples, paper coating color containing 64 % by weight of solid content was prepared by using 40 parts by weight of standard clay(primary level), 40 parts by weight of calcium carbonate, 20 parts by weight of artificial pigment, 10 parts by weight of latex, 0.8 parts by weight of thickener, 1.2 parts by weight of other additives. The prepared coating color was coated on both sides of coated paper in each amount of 15 g/m² by a Rod manual coating(No.6). And then, the coating color was dried for 30 seconds at 105°C and passed through a super calendar at 80°C and under 40 kg/cm twice(pass speed : 4m/min) to make coated paper.

The material properties of the coated paper made in the above were measured in terms of low-shear viscosity, high-shear viscosity, stiffness, smoothness, paper gloss, printing gloss, dry pick resistance, ink set-off, wet pick resistance, and wet ink receptivity. The measurement methods were explained in below and the results were shown in table 5.

The low-shear viscosity was measured by a BF-type viscometer after 1 minute at 60 rpm by using a No.3 rotor and indicated by value (unit: cP) and the high-shear viscosity was measured by using a Hercules viscometer (KRK type, model KC-801C) at 6600 rpm and indicated by value (unit: cP).

The smoothness was measured by using a Parker print and as the value is smaller (unit: um), the surface of coated paper is smoother.

The stiffness was measured at both cross direction and machine direction by using a bending resistance tester (Gurley) and averaged. The measuring length is 2.5", width is 1", and as the value is higher, the coated paper is stiffer.

After printing coated paper several times in a RI printer, the dry pick resistance was measured by naked eyes in terms of the degree of tear and evaluated by 5-score method. As the score increases, dry pick resistance becomes better. After ink of tech value 12, 14, and 16 was used and

measured, an average was obtained.

After adding damping water by using molten-roll in the RI printer and printing, the wet pick resistance was measured by the same method as that of dry pick resistance in terms of the degree of tear. The value was measured by 5-score method by using ink of tech value 14 after printing one time.

After printing coated paper in the RI printer, ink set-off was measured in terms of the degree of smear by 5-score method. As the score is higher, the ink set-off is better.

After adding damping water in the RI printer and printing, the wet ink receptivity was measured in terms of degree of transfer of ink. Ink of low tech value was used in order not to occur tear. As the score is higher, the wet ink receptivity is higher.

The paper gloss was measured after measuring various parts of coated paper by using an Optical Gloss Meter (HUNTER type, 75° gloss) and averaged. The unit is %.

The printing gloss was measured in the same method as in the paper gloss after 24 hours after printing in the RI printer.

Table 5

Properties	Low-shear viscosity	High-shear viscosity	Stiffness	Smoothness	Paper gloss	Printing gloss	dry pick resistance	Ink set-off	Wet pick resistance	Wet ink receptivity
Ex. 1	1450	20.7	6.6	0.98	79.2	82.0	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.0
Ex. 2	1490	21.3	6.8	0.92	82.7	84.2	3.9	4.3	4.2	3.8
Ex. 3	1485	21.7	6.7	0.93	82.3	88.06	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.0
Ex. 4	1490	21.6	6.5	0.95	81.5	88.2	4.3	3.8	3.9	4.1
Ex. 5	1510	19.5	6.3	0.98	81.1	86.4	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.1
Ex. 6	1510	19.8	6.4	0.96	83.1	85.9	3.7	4.3	4.2	3.8
Ex. 7	1505	22.1	6.3	0.99	79.6	84.1	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.0
Ex. 8	1495	21.5	6.8	0.93	82.0	89.1	4.3	3.9	4.0	3.9

Ex. 9	1500	21.9	6.9	0.90	82.36	88.8	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.0
Ex. 10	1515	19.4	6.2	0.99	80.7	85.8	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.1
Ex. 11	1510	19.4	6.3	0.95	81.8	88.0	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.0
Ex. 12	1505	19.8	6.1	0.98	81.2	84.5	3.6	4.2	4.2	3.8
Com. Ex. 1	1440	21.1	6.9	0.91	83.4	83.9	2.8	4.5	4.3	3.7
Com. Ex. 2	1480	22.3	6.1	1.02	76.8	80.7	3.3	4.1	3.8	4.2
Com. Ex. 3	1515	19.8	6.0	1.04	78.0	81.6	3.2	4.2	3.9	4.1

As can be seen in the table 5, as a results of measuring properties of coating color and coated paper and printing properties, it can be confirmed that the artificial pigments of examples have more excellent and balanced printing properties than those of Comparative Examples. In Comparative example 1, paper gloss was excellent, but printing gloss and dry pick resistance were low. In Comparative Examples 2 and 3, paper gloss and printing gloss were lowered.

In addition, more or less changes of properties were indicated by changing conditions of the second and third step. This could be because particle size, gel content and monomer composition affect the structure of the present invention.

As mentioned above, the artificial pigment of the present invention has reverse core-shell structure and the artificial pigment is used with an inorganic pigment to prepare coating color. The coating color comprising the artificial pigment can produce coated papers and has excellent properties in terms of low-shear viscosity, high-shear viscosity, stiffness, smoothness, paper gloss, printing gloss, dry pick resistance, ink set-off, wet pick resistance, and wet ink receptivity.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An artificial pigment of core-shell structure comprising:
 - a) shell of butadiene polymer including:
 - i) seed of butadiene polymer having glass transition temperature
5 of -10 to 50°C ; and
 - ii) seed covering of butadiene polymer having glass transition temperature of -10 to 20°C ; and
 - b) core of styrene polymer having glass transition temperature of 40 to 120°C .
- 10 2. The artificial pigment of claim 1 comprising:
 - a) shell including:
 - i) seed which is a polymer of seed composition comprising styrene, 1,3-butadiene, ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer, vinyl cyanide monomer, monomer copolymerizable with these and a chain transfer agent;
15 and
 - ii) seed covering which is a polymer of seed composition comprising styrene, 1,3-butadiene, and ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer and a chain transfer agent; and
 - b) core which is a polymer of core composition comprising styrene
20 and ethylenic unsaturated monomers and placed in inside of said shell.
3. The artificial pigment of claim 2, wherein said seed composition of a) i) comprises 35 to 90 parts by weight of styrene, 10 to 55 parts by weight of 1,3-butadiene, 1 to 18 parts by weight of ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer, 0.5 to 15 parts by weight of vinyl cyanide
25 monomer, 1 to 25 parts by weight of copolymerizable monomer and 0.1 to 1.0 parts by weight of a chain transfer agent.
4. The artificial pigment of claim 2, wherein said ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer of a) i) is selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, and
30 maleic acid;
said vinyl cyanide monomer is acrylonitrile or methacrylonitrile;

said copolymerizable monomer is at least one selected from the group consisting of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester such as methylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, butylacrylate, or butylmethacrylate; unsaturated carboxylic acid hydroxyalkyl ester such as β -hydroxyethyl acrylate, β -hydroxypropyl acrylate, or β -hydroxyethyl methacrylate; unsaturated carboxylic acid amide such as acrylamide, methacrylamide, itaconamide, or maleic acid monoamide or derivatives thereof; and aromatic vinyl monomer such as α -methylstyrene, vinyl toluene, or p-methyl styrene.

5 5. The artificial pigment of claim 2, wherein said seed covering composition of a) ii) comprises 20 to 85 parts by weight of styrene, 23 to 75 parts by weight of 1,3-butadiene, 0.5 to 18 parts by weight of ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer, and 0.1 to 3.0 parts by weight of a chain transfer agent.

15 6. The artificial pigment of claim 2, wherein said seed covering composition of a) ii) further comprises 1.0 to 25 parts by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer such as acrylonitrile or methacrylonitrile; or

1.0 to 25 parts by weight of at least one copolymerizable monomer selected from the group consisting of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester such as methylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, butylacrylate, or butylmethacrylate; unsaturated carboxylic acid hydroxyalkyl ester such as β -hydroxyethyl acrylate, β -hydroxypropyl acrylate, or β -hydroxyethyl methacrylate; unsaturated carboxylic acid amide such as acrylamide, methacrylamide, itaconamide, or maleic acid monoamide or derivatives thereof; and aromatic vinyl monomer such as α -methylstyrene, vinyl toluene, or p-methyl styrene.

25 7. The artificial pigment of claim 2, wherein said ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer of a) ii) is selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid and maleic acid.

30 8. The artificial pigment of claim 2, wherein said core composition of b) comprises 85 to 99.9 parts by weight of styrene, and 0.1 to

15 parts by weight of ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid and maleic acid.

9. The artificial pigment of claim 2, wherein said core
5 composition of b) further comprises

0.1 to 25 parts by weight of 1,3-butadiene;

0.1 to 1.0 parts by weight of a chain transfer agent;

0.1 to 10 parts by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer such as acrylonitrile or methacrylonitrile; or

10 0.1 to 8 parts by weight of at least one copolymerizable monomer selected from the group consisting of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester such as methylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, ethylacrylate, ethylmethacrylate, butylacrylate, or butylmethacrylate; unsaturated carboxylic acid hydroxyalkyl ester such as β -hydroxyethyl acrylate, β -hydroxypropyl acrylate, or
15 β -hydroxyethyl methacrylate; unsaturated carboxylic acid amide such as acrylamide, methacrylamide, itaconamide, or maleic acid monoamide or derivatives thereof; and aromatic vinyl monomer such as α -methylstyrene, vinyl toluene, or p-methyl styrene.

10. The artificial pigment of claim 1, wherein said artificial
20 pigment has an average particle size of 170 to 300nm.

11. The artificial pigment of claim 1, wherein said artificial pigment is prepared by a reverse core-shell polymerization process which comprises shell is formed and then core polymer is formed inner side of the shell.

25 12. A method of preparing artificial pigment comprising:

a) preparing shell of butadiene polymer; and

b) preparing core of styrene polymer inner side of said shell of a)
step.

13. The method of claim 12 comprising:

30 a) a step of preparing shell comprising

i) preparing seed latex by emulsion polymerizing seed composition comprising styrene, 1,3-butadiene, ethylenic unsaturated acid

monomer, vinyl cyanide monomer, monomer copolymerizable with these, and a chain transfer agent; and

ii) covering outside of said seed latex with polymer of seed covering composition by adding seed covering composition comprising
5 styrene, 1,3-butadiene, ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer and a chain transfer agent to said seed latex and emulsion polymerizing them; and

b) a step of preparing core inside of said shell by adding core composition comprising styrene and ethylenic unsaturated acid monomer to said shell and emulsion polymerizing them.

10 14. The method of claim 13, wherein gel content of seed particle after a) i) step is less than or equal to 80 % by weight; gel content of shell particle after a) ii) step is 25 to 65 % by weight; and gel content of core-shell particle after b) step is 40 to 85 % by weight.

15 15. The method of claim 13, wherein conversion ratio of monomer to polymer of shell in a) step is 55 to 85 % and conversion ratio of monomer to polymer of core-shell in b) step is 50 to 85 %.

16. A paper coating composition comprising the artificial pigment prepared by any method of claims 12.

20 17. A coated paper prepared by coating the paper coating composition comprising the artificial pigment prepared by any method of claims 12.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/KR 01/02199

CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC⁷: D21H 19/58, C09D 17/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC⁷: D21H 19/58, C09D 17/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Questel WPI

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5872189 A (Bett et al.) 16 February 1999 (16.02.99) <i>claims.</i>	1
A	DE 19512999 A1 (Japan Synthetic Rubber Co.) 12 October 1995 (12.10.95) <i>claims.</i>	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 March 2002 (15.03.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 April 2002 (18.04.2002)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AT

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Kohlmarkt 8-10; A-1014 Vienna
Facsimile No. 1/53424/535

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/KR 01/02199-0

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